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\$1.50 incl. GST Publications mail agreement # 40063862

Tuesday, Dec 23, 2014

www.haliburtonecho.ca Total 24 pages



Girls take gold at Lake **Placid**

Darren Lum Staff reporter

Just as Santa was going by in the Lake Placid Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 13, the Red Hawks girls' hockey team head coach Dan Marsden wished for his team to have three more wins at the Canadian Hockey Enterprises American Cup Tournament in Lake Placid, N.Y.

The wish came true. Teamwork and executing what they practiced, the girls came

'We always joke, [but] they're actually starting to listen. We practice and practice, do drills and try to tell them what to do, show them what to do in a drill and sometimes things start clicking," he said.

Taking the team concept to heart, the Red Hawks girls' hockey team was rewarded for its focus and was still basking in a golden light days after.

From Friday, Dec. 12 to Sunday, Dec. 14, the Whiteface girls' high school division tournament included Midland's St. Theresa Thunder, Lakefield's Lakefield College, Angus's Nottawasaga Pines and the KV Lady Crusaders of Rothesay, N.B.

see GIRLS page 17



Grinch steals the show

Ezra Hill performs as the Grinch from the How the Grinch Stole Christmas at the annual holiday concert at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School. It included instrumental performances by the band and PALS students. There were hundreds in attendance for the event in the school's gymnasium. More on page 9. Darren Lum Staff

Paramedicine program launches in 2015

Chad Ingram

Staff reporter

A community paramedicine program for Haliburton County will start up in the new

Last March, the county applied to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for funding for the program, which will see specially trained paramedics conduct home visits for high-need patients.

While it was less than requested, the county received approval for \$85,000 of funding in August and recently emergency services director Craig Jones met with reps from the Haliburton Family Health Team to identify individuals in need of the service.

"They identified five or 10 people right out the gates," Jones told county councillors at a Dec. 17 meeting. He said identifying the program's cohort is the first step and that there is only enough funding to help a few. "Who are we helping out first?"

The focus will be on elderly and isolated patients, the living conditions of whom are familiar to some of the county's paramed-

"They see all the unwashed dishes, the spoiling food . . . the meds are all over the place," Jones said.

The paramedics involved in the program will receive special geriatric training

see PROGRAM page 4



Less strife on Rail Trail

Chad Ingram

to outfit

50 kids

for hockey

Staff reporter

Conflicts on the Haliburton County Rail Trail seemed to have died down.

Back in 2012, Haliburton County paid \$10,000 to a hire a community planner to conduct a public input process and compile a report with recommendations for the Haliburton County Rail Trail.

For years, the corridor had been a source controversy, with tension between advocates of motorized and nonmotorized use, as well as abutting property owners

The report provided numerous recommendations, including freezing existing uses on the trail, at least until other components of the report had been addressed.

The Rail Trail remains a multi-use space, its oversight falling under the auspices of the county roads department. At a Dec. 17 county council meeting, roads director Doug

Ray presented councillors with an update report. "Conflicts between motorized and non-motorized uses that were an issue prior to the public consultation are no longer being reported and are assumed not to be an issue presently," the report read. "No other uses have been permitted. Under special permit the annual Rail Trail enduro event continues to be held in September."

ATVs have been permitted on the trail beginning May 1 pending conditions – through the end of October. Snowmobiles are permitted during the wintertime.

The annual Corduroy Enduro is the only time twowheeled motorized vehicles are permitted on the corridor.

These motorized uses are in addition to pedestrian uses, including bicycles.

Another recommendation from the 2012 report had been to investigate whether motorized traffic would be diverted onto nearby Crown land.

Ray told councillors the province rebuked that idea.

"Not an option, at this point," he said.

A call log concerning the Rail Trail has also been set up, but is typically empty when it comes up for council's review. Bylaw officer James Rogers told council he'd been called

to zero incidents on the trail.

The county section of the Rail Trail stretches approximately 34 kilometres, from Kinmount to Haliburton Village.



Angelica Blenich

Staff reporter

The future is looking to be full of fitness and activities for the residents of Haliburton as the municipality announced last week it will be hiring a full-time recreation program coordinator.

Starting Jan. 1, 2015, Andrea Mueller will be the municipal recreation co-ordinator for Dysart et al, a position she has held on a contract basis through a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport in 2013.

When Mueller was told the position would become fulltime she felt like Christmas had come early.

"I'm so excited," she said. "I like working for the municipality and getting out and meeting new people."

Originally from Markham, Mueller moved to the area following her post-secondary schooling to do an outdoor education internship co-ordinated by Lynda Shadbolt.

She fell in love with the area, which she says possesses a real sense of community.

Over the years she left the county for other employment opportunities but her heart remained in Haliburton and so she returned with her husband and two young children.

Since starting as the recreation co-ordinator in September 2013, Mueller has created many new programs and activities in the community.

They include various walking groups for all ages, a summer ball hockey program, equipment lending at the library, Frisbee golf in Head Lake Park, a cycling festival and the annual Ugly Sweater Run - all free or low cost.

Looking ahead the recreation co-ordinator has many more ideas, including bringing up a professional skateboarder to the area, a dodgeball program for adults and a

She is also looking to partner with the Haliburton Museum to have a bike loan program run from there and skates available for public skating at the A.J. LaRue arena.

She is always open to suggestions from the public, including options for accommodating programming.

"The next step is trying to get really good partnerships with the schools and Haliburton Legion," said Mueller.

The co-ordinator is hoping to focus more on youth and children, using tools such as social media to reach out to young residents.

In addition to overseeing recreation programming, in her new role Mueller will be providing administrative assistance to director of parks and recreation Ray Miscio.

"She will also be responsible for co-ordination of events that the municipality organizes such as the Frost Festival," Dysart chief administrative officer Tamara Wilbee told the

The decision to create a full-time recreation co-ordinator came from council, said Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey.

'There's certainly a void in the community for physical activity and programs," said Fearrey. "She's filled that void ... I've certainly been impressed with the number of activities and the interest in them."

The new position will be incorporated into the municipal budget, said the reeve.

Mueller will also be part of a new recreation committee, which will include municipal councillors Andrea Roberts, Walt McKechnie and Tammy Donaldson, as well as mem-

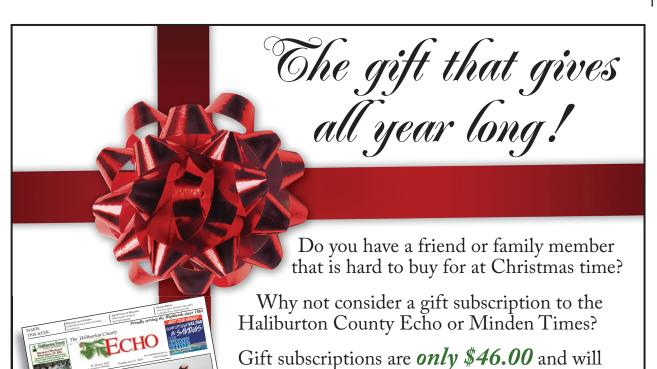
'We'll meet formally every other month and they can give me feedback," said Mueller.

Prior to the creation of the committee, a public consultation event is scheduled to take place on Jan. 20 at the noon, according to Wilbee.

'This will be the second consultation event held as part of the provincially funded pilot program which runs until the end of March 2015," she said.

Mueller is looking forward to creating more physical activity opportunities for area residents and encouraging everyone to enjoy the outdoors.

"My thing is Í don't care if you're a competitive athlete or not, just get out there and have fun. Have fun and don't forget to play," she said.



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News

West Guilford resident given life-changing gift

Angelica Blenich

Staff reporter

This year Gail Teasdale received a special Christmas gift a couple of weeks early.

It didn't come wrapped in shiny paper or found nestled under the Christmas tree.

The gift came in the form of a phone call, late at night, while Teasdale was up watching a movie on the TV.

A resident of West Guilford, Teasdale, 61, was dozing off to sleep during a weeknight in November when she heard the ringing.

Jolted awake, her initial reaction was one of worry, as late night phone calls typically mean bad news.

When she picked up the receiver her worry subsided.

"I was sitting in that chair," she says pointing to a recliner in her living room. "They phoned at one o'clock in the morning."

The call was from Toronto General Hospital to inform Teasdale they had a match for her for a kidney transplant.

"Do you know what I did? I hesitated," says Teasdale, adding due to her sleep haze it took her a while to realize what was happening.

Married with two children and many grandchildren, Teasdale's daughter convinced her to have the transplant.

Originally from Burlington, Teasdale moved to the area as a teenager with her family.

Convinced she was going to move back to her hometown when she was old enough, Teasdale met her now husband Bryan and instead settled into life in Haliburton.

"I'm the only one in my family who stayed up here," she says, adding she was one of seven children.

Two years ago she was diagnosed with diabetes and since then has made weekly trips to Peterborough for dialysis treatments.

44

I just wish there was more help out there for the ones who can't afford it.

— Gail Teasdale

The trips, which take place three times a week, every week, can take a few hours at a time, sometimes upwards of a whole day, she says. If a treatment was missed Teasdale would have to make it up at some point during the week.

"It was starting to get to me," she says.
"The driving ... it's an expense. I feel sorry
for the people who have been doing it for so
many years."

With siblings living in Peterborough, Teasdale chose to do her treatments there due to the support of family.

Since starting the treatments she has been on the waiting list for a kidney.

The day Teasdale got the phone call she had been at dialysis, which unbeknownst to her was one of her last treatments.

On Nov. 12 she was admitted for her surgery and received a new kidney. The surgery went well and a few weeks later Teasdale was released and sent back to the Highlands for her recovery.

Her return home was one of great welcome, as she had difficulty sleeping during her time at the hospital.

A month after the surgery, Teasdale was up and moving around, getting back into her regular routine.

She would recommend the surgery to anyone in a similar position.

"It changes your whole life," she says.

Although Teasdale was pain-free prior to the surgery, the regular dialysis visits were a pain in themselves.

Since having the transplant she hasn't had to go through any treatments.

The relief from the driving and expense is something Teasdale wishes could be done for all those needing dialysis, hoping the equipment could one day be brought to Haliburton County.

"Even if they had something small, just to save people from the travelling," she says.

If not the equipment then perhaps more support could be available for those needing dialysis locally.



It is something that I would like to put into a 10-year master plan.

— Varouj Eskedjian Haliburton Highlands Health Services CEO



Angelica Blenich Staff

West Guilford resident Gail Teasdale is all smiles as she recovers at her home from a kidney transplant she received on Nov. 12. She was sitting in this chair when she got a call to tell her a kidney match was found. Teasdale has been waiting for a transplant for two years and has been travelling to Peterborough three days a week to receive dialysis treatments.

"I just wish there was more help out there for the ones who can't afford it," says Teasdale.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services president and CEO Varouj Eskedjian says the decision to bring dialysis to the county is one that belongs to the Local Health Integration Network.

"The reason that it's not on our immediate radar is it's not only expensive to implement, which isn't really a concern to me because I know our community would support the development of a satellite dialysis program, it's actually the way dialysis is funded and structured in the province," says Fskedian

The CEO says the funding is allocated through regions and until the centres within the region that includes Haliburton (Central East LHIN) are at capacity, no new centres will be considered.

With Lindsay and Peterborough not at

capacity, a new centre for Haliburton is not likely in the near future, said Eskedjian.

"The likelihood in the short term is not that good," he said.

However Eskedjian would like to put dialysis on a list of priorities for the area, however long it may take. "It is something that I would like to put

into a 10-year master plan that we hope to develop."

A former personal support worker, Teas-

dale is hoping to get back out into the com-

munity soon and back to working with people.

If the new kidney doesn't take there is a possibility Teasdale will have to have

another surgery.

However she has heard stories of some transplant recipients who have had kidneys

last for 30 years. She is hoping her story is similar.

"It's like a Christmas gift," she says.



Keeping bugs at bay

Forest conservation officer gives council rundown on threats to county's trees

Chad Ingram Staff reporter

Haliburton County councillors are looking to better educate the public about biological threats posing risk to the county.

At their Dec. 17 meeting, councillors heard a year-end report from forest conservation and bylaw officer James Rogers.

Rogers explained that an April regulation change by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency means that Haliburton County is now part of a large area throughout which materials from areas infested by the emerald ash borer – a destructive, invasive species of insect – can be transported.

Prior to 2014, the CFIA had been restricting the movement of infested materials – namely firewood – into the county.

Monitoring and trapping for the emerald ash borer has been performed throughout the county through a partnership with the U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research and so far has turned up nothing.

"That's not to say it's not here, but it hasn't been detected," Rogers told council. "It will come."

The county has erected signage – including some large, roadside signs – advising people about the dangers of transporting firewood from out of the community.

Rogers said seasonal residents transporting firewood to the county from areas south pose a risk of bringing the insect with them.

He said people should be purchasing firewood as locally as possible. Rogers said

a certain parasitoid – a small, non-stinging wasp that is a threat to the ash borer – has been released in the province.

Another destructive species to look out for is the Asian long-horned beetle, which leave perfectly round holes, larger than pencil-sized, in the trees they inhabit.

"It looks like somebody drilled a hole," Rogers said, adding he was looking for a maple tree in a public place where the MNR had offered to create sample holes so the public could recognize them.

"I don't think the education's out there to recognize these things," said Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey, adding ecological destruction could wreak havoc on the community's economy, by affecting sectors such as the maple syrup industry. "It could be devastating."

Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt said she thought signs and public information sessions were preaching to the converted and the county needed to find another way of getting the knowledge into the the community. "We need to get this information out to the average Joe," Moffatt said.

Beech bark disease – which can cause beech trees to snap and topple – continues to kill trees throughout the county and Rogers said many property owners have removed beech trees displaying symptoms from their land.

Invasive plant species garlic mustard weed and giant hogweed continue to be a problem, although eradication efforts on the latter seem to have been effective in many parts of the county.

Rogers said the hemlock woolly adelgid – which kills hemlock trees – is also a concern and that white, woolly patches on the underside of twigs are signs of an infestation.



Chad Ingram Staff

County council from left, Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin, Minden Hills Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch, Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt, Dysart et al Deputy-reeve Andrea Roberts, Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey, Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen, Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton and Highlands East Deputy-reeve Suzanne Partridge.

Fearrey warden for 12th time

Chad Ingram

Staff reporter

Make it an even dozen.

Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey will be warden of Haliburton County for 2015.

It will be the 12th time he's held the post. Fearrey was elected to the position by his county council colleagues at the inaugural meeting of the new council in Minden on Dec. 16

County council consists of the reeves and deputy-reeves of the four lower-tier townships. "I've always known that when Murray speaks, we know what he's thinking, and I really admire that," said Highlands East Deputy-reeve Suzanne Partridge, as she nominated Fearrey.

Her motion was seconded by Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin.

There were no other nominations from the floor.

"It was 40 years ago this week that I first wore this chain," Fearrey said after being presented with the chain of office by 2014 warden, Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton. "I've had the opportunity to work with a lot of dedicated councillors, staff and

Fearrey said he'd like to start the term off with a special meeting of council to consider a vision for the upcoming term.

"In the year ahead, we will have the same challenge we have every year," he said, that being balancing the county's books. The county has an annual budget of approximately \$19 million, about \$13 million of which comes from taxation.

"As we know, the province is not in a good financial position."

Ontario's debt sits at approximately \$280 billion and provincial funding has been decreasing for a number of years.

The county's chief planning document, its official plan, will undergo review in 2015 and the Ontario 55+ Winter Games are coming to the county in February.

"Staff tell us that they have no more room for records," Fearrey continued, adding that a digitized records system was also on the county's to-do list.

The new OPP billing formula that will come into effect in 2015 will see the county's collective policing bill nearly double from \$3.3 to \$6.3 million during the next five years. "You may think it's gone, but I don't think we should just drop it," Fearrey said. County council lobbied hard against the billing framework throughout 2014, to no avail. The political veteran offered special congratulations to Devolin and Dysart et al Deputy-reeve Andrea Roberts, both new additions to county council.

The rest of council is comprised of returning politicians, including Fearrey, Partridge, Burton, Minden Hills Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch, Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt and Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen.

Fearrey served as warden in 2011 and 2012 and had said at the end of that year that he wouldn't hold the position again.

Fearrey told the paper Tuesday night this term would make it an even dozen.

"I won't be warden 13 times," he said.

MPP Laurie Scott attended the ceremony, congratulating councillors and MP Barry Devolin's executive assistant Jamie Schmale brought greetings from the MP.

Rev. Bev Hicks gave an invocation.

"You have a big ship to steer," Hicks told councillors, "and there may be some dark and foggy waters ahead. Just let your conscience be your guide."

County council will hold its first regular meeting of the term Dec. 17 at 9 a.m.

Program expected to be popular amongst aging population

from page 1

to help them facilitate at-home visits that will include checking blood pressure and ensuring patients are taking their meds. This will help reduce the need to make trips to the doctor.

Patients have to consent to the visitation. "Given our demographic, it's likely the program will be oversubscribed immediately," said Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt, asking what would determine who received care.

Jones said candidates would ultimately be screened by him, with suggestions coming from local physicians.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz

Danielsen wondered if along with elderly, the program might serve people with disabilities.

Jones, emphasizing the amount of funding only facilitating looking after a few people, said the focus for now would be older patients.

"These are our most vulnerable people," he said.

Councillors expressed some concern about funding the program in the future if money from the province was discontinued.

"Once you get things in place, it's very hard to withdraw them later," Moffatt said.

Jones hopes to commence at-home visits by the end of January.



Housing Help Centre to open in January

Centralized services designed to make finding assistance easier for clients

Jenn Watt Editor

Starting in the new year, Haliburton County and City of Kawartha Lakes will deliver housing assistance in a one-stop shop called the Housing Help Centre.

The concept will offer help to those looking for housing, needing social assistance or with help maintaining housing.

The centre will bring together services that were previously spread out amongst service providers.

"Overall the focus is on improving services, ... we want to maintain at the minimum the existing services and the scope of services and in most cases we're expanding or increasing services," said director of health and social services Rod Sutherland.

Housing Help is intended to be a place to go when you need assistance, whether you're looking for a listing of vacancies across the region or help dealing with a utility company.

Earlier in the year, concern had been

raised that the Housing Help Centre would take contracts away from service providers such as A Place Called Home, the John Howard Society and others.

Sutherland said the funding has changed to some of those groups.

"Some of the funding to the agencies has changed around specific programs. We're not ending blanket funding," he said, noting that some programs have stayed with outside agencies. He gave the example of the emergency shelter, which will remain an initiative of A Place Called Home. Similarly, the Haliburton County Heat Bank will continue with APCH.

In addition to existing programs, the help centre is working on a new program called Emergency Home Repair, which would assist low income people and those on social assistance to deal with urgent repairs.

In January, the Housing Help Centre can be accessed in Minden at the county building on Newcastle Street or in Lindsay, but there are plans to open other sites to better serve clients. Within the first half of 2015, Sutherland said he expected a new location to be found in Haliburton Village.

The overall approach is the better coordinated, integrated service delivery model," he said.

You can reach housing help staff toll free at 1-800-463-4120 or email HousingHelp@ city.kawarthalakes.on.ca.



Community Builders

Barb Fawcett

Jenn Watt Editor

This is part of a series on volunteers in our community and the important work they do.

When Barb Fawcett dreams of retirement, she imagines community service.

Already an active volunteer, Fawcett anticipates doing more, particularly for those in long-term care.

"In my dream world, when I retire, I'd like to be part of the palliative care team at Extendicare," she says.

Fawcett is manager of Parklane and Echo Hills apartments in Haliburton and divides her volunteer time between Extendicare, SIRCH Community Services and the high school scholarship committee.

Fawcett says she got the volunteering bug from her father, Bill Payne, who gave his

time to a variety of groups including refereeing and helping with Scouts among other

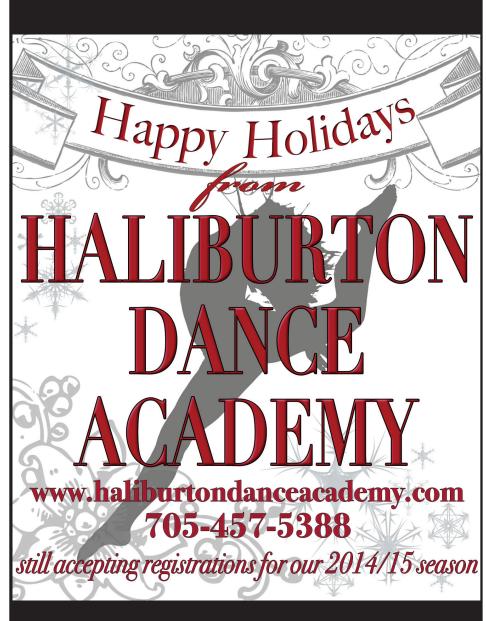
One senses it's hard for Fawcett to turn down opportunities to help others, but has made decisions to limit her time to avoid burnout over the years.

Her plate is pretty full: she is president of the board of SIRCH Community Services; has been running a weekly Bible study group at Extendicare for the last 18 years; and is the secretary for the scholarship committee.

Respect for other community members and a drive to help in a tangible way guide Fawcett. She says her activities are deeply rewarding.

"Those you're volunteering for, they give me more than I give them. A smile from someone who has no verbal skill anymore just because you've sat with that person ... oh my goodness, what a gift that is."







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Snowy Harburn

by Darren Lum

Looking to 2015

INCE WE are off for a week over the holidays, when the next issue of the *Echo* comes out it will already be the new year.

With that in mind, here is a list of some of the things we're looking forward to in 2015.

Pan Am Games

The Minden Wild Water Preserve is set to get the attention it deserves.

Often forgotten despite being a world-class kayaking destination, perhaps the games will highlight what a gem we have right in Minden. The games will bring some employment, new tourism dollars, some promotion for the area and a lot of fun for the rest of us.



Jenn Watt Editor

cation for community members.

Hospital happenings

Most of us don't want to think about end-of-life care, however, plans to break ground this spring on the second palliative care suite at the Haliburton hospital should be celebrated.

tion toward better support and edu-

Clearly a priority for Haliburtoni-

ans, the foundation's fundraising has gone swimmingly since the campaign launched.

A second suite at the Haliburton hospital will bring much-needed comfort to our families, friends and neighbours at a difficult time.

HHHS has also recently been allocated funding for a special geriatric

support team, with an announcement detailing the model early in January.

Low gas prices

A welcomed and needed respite, lower prices for gas will free up money for discretionary spending locally and encourage cottagers and tourists to explore the Highlands more often.

Trail development

With most of the former council still in place in Highlands East, chances are good that the important work started on trails and economic development will continue in 2015. Greens Mountain plans offer an opportunity to transform a controversial piece of Crown land into a multi-use destination.

55+ Winter Games A smashing success last time we

played host, the 55+ Winter Games is set to engage volunteers and local athletes while attracting more than a thousand people to the county Feb. 17 to 19. Promoting activity, sportsmanship and a love of winter, the games is a positive addition to this year's agenda.

Food centre

The second addition in the county to accommodate larger volumes of produce for the food banks, the Wilberforce food centre (construction set for this spring) will greatly enhance capacity for storing food and running programming. Alongside the extra space in Minden created thanks to a Trillium grant, our county continues in the right direc-

Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

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God save the reeve

Chad Ingram

Reporter

OCAL MUNICIPAL councils have a sort of extra, de facto member, one we never hear from but who is present at every council meeting, keeping an eye on proceedings, usually peering over the reeve's shoulder from her place on

It's the Queen and, frankly, it's time for her to go.

In the constitutional monarchy of Canada, the British sovereign remains the official head

of the state, and it's written right into the municipal oath of office provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and taken by local politicians that they will honour whomever is sitting on the British throne.

Along with promising not to succumb to corruption and to always disclose conflicts of interest, they vow subservience to the monarch.

"I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second (or the reigning sovereign for the time being)" the oath reads.

In Minden Hills, there's even a singing of God Save the Queen.

This is an archaic tradition that is as irrelevant in 2014 as the royal family itself, a symbolic remnant of a bygone, imperialist era. It's an absurd practice performed for tradition's

While still part of the Commonwealth, Canada has been an autonomous, self-legislating country since the Statute of Westminster was passed in 1931.

Eighty-three years later, it's time for the inauguration ceremonies of our municipal councils to modernize.

It makes more sense in Canada for councils to pledge allegiance to Tommy Douglas's ghost, or, locally, to that of Thomas Chandler Haliburton, for that matter.

Why pledge allegiance to anyone at all, aside from the residents of the municipality? They're the important ones in all this.

The new mayor of Victoria, B.C. offended monarchists recently when she refused to pledge allegiance to the Queen during her inauguration.

She was joined by the majority of her council, with most of its members refusing that portion of the oath

> Admirable and gutsy, particularly in a city named for Queen Elizabeth's great, great grandmother.

The mayor said she'd given her solemn oath to the people of Victoria, and that was good enough for her.

What's more, she noted the community includes many First Nations residents and denounced the

oppression First Nations suffered at the altar of British imperialism. Another excellent reason to scrap

the royals from the oath of office. Yes, generations have become nos-

talgically attached to Elizabeth II, who's become sort of like everybody's grandma. She's just a few years shy of breaking Victoria's record as the longest-serving British monarch.

For many of us, she's been Queen longer than we've been alive and we've watched her youthful visage on our currency transform into a more wrinkled version.

Whenever her passing takes place, it would seem a logical time for the federal government to re-evaluate Canada's constitutional monarchy and consider its abolition.

If not before, it would also be a logical time for local councils to remove allegiance to the throne as part of their oaths of office.

On top of everything and if nothing else, who really wants to pledge allegiance to Charles?

Christmas gifts for the great outdoorsman

Thile I certainly dislike Christmas shopping, I acknowledge it is necessary. The truth is I've long given up on Santa. I saw him in a store the other day and he said my behaviour of late has probably put me out of the running. I think it might have had something to do with that bow hunting incident with Rudolph last year. By the way, I'm glad I missed – if a deer has a red nose, it's probably not edible anyhow.

In any case, this Christmas I'm relying on the kindness of others. No doubt the angler or hunter in your life is probably doing the same thing.

The No. 1 question I am asked this time of year is "Is that a toupee?" That's generally because as someone who ties flies and is always on the lookout for natural hair and fur, I can spot a toupee a mile away.



Steve Galea Loon Tales

So, when someone points to a passing man and asks that question, I can usually give a fairly accurate answer.

After that question, however, I am asked, "What do you get an outdoor enthusiast for Christmas?"

Everyone is different, but here are a few gift ideas that are hard to go wrong with.

1. A gun bearer: I'm not quite sure why gun bearers went out of style, but I haven't ever seen one outside of those old safari movies. This is a shame because a gun bearer doesn't just carry your rifle or shotgun, he reloads it

just carry your rifle or shotgun, he reloads it too. And then he says things like, "Great shot, memsahib" – which you have to admit is kind of cool.

 A pipe: Every outdoorsman or woman, whether they smoke or not, would look even more outdoorsy with a pipe sticking out from between their teeth. Anyone who utters advice while sporting a pipe is automatically considered a sage outdoorsman.

I myself have experimented with this during the deer season. My findings: this does not work with a plastic bubble pipe.

- 3. A Dale Carnegie course on public speaking: I know this sounds odd, but public speaking is what most outdoorsmen do after they tag out or catch a large fish. Why not learn how to do it right?
- 4. A dog with good hearing: I don't know if it is a result of their fine breeding; all I know is that every hunting dog I have ever had has been afflicted with selective hearing. For once I'd like one that actually hears commands other than, "Come get dinner."
- 5. Waders guaranteed to leak: This type of honesty in advertising would be refreshing to a lot of outdoorsmen I know. If we had that guarantee, we could work around it, rather than try to explain why we have a wet spot on the front of our pants to a friend in the coffee shop.
- 6. A 10 per cent hit guarantee: Personally, I would pay for this sort of guarantee on any firearms I purchased. That way, when I hit over 10 per cent of the time, I'd be elated.
- 7. A tree stand that comes with its own tree: Why isn't anyone selling saplings with their tree stands, huh? The way I figure it, there is never a tree where you want it to be anyhow, so why not let the outdoorsman plant one and plan ahead.
- 8. A little radio controlled tug boat: To retrieve all those ducks your dog won't.
- 9. A boat plug alarm: I can't believe no one has invented one of these yet. I would much rather pay for a device that beeps when your boat hits the water without its plug in place. It would be far better than the sound of a friend saying, "Oh %\$#! The plug is in the car."
- 10. Lastly, toupees made from real animals: You never know when you are going to need emergency fly tying materials.

That's my list for this year. Merry Christmas.

Have an opinion?

Send a letter the Editor at jenn@haliburtonpress.com

letters to the editor

Hydro One issues persist

To the Editor,

Last week, the Auditor General of Ontario released her annual report revealing what many have known all along – that people in Ontario are paying billions of dollars extra for electricity because of a flawed smart meter program and the abovemarket rates the province pays to most power generators.

We thought it couldn't get any worse than when the Liberals wasted a billion dollars on the gas plants scandal; however this government actually doubled down and wasted another two billion dollars on smart meters that do not work.

In addition to the financial costs, the Auditor General found that smart meters have done little to reduce peak energy use, which was the intent of the program in the first place. This news comes on the heels of a year-long battle between Hydro One and Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock customers who have been victimized by a flawed and mismanaged billing system and a total disregard for customer service.

The report also found that ratepayers will pay \$50 billion between 2006 and 2015 in Global Adjustment Charges, on their electricity bills. This charge is intended to cover the gap between the heavily subsidized prices paid green energy. Sixty per cent of that

can be traced to wind and solar power generators and the actual market price.

Every homeowner in Ontario has paid and will continue to pay \$1,000 a year in Global Adjustment Charges. By 2015, each Ontario household will have handed over \$10,000 in hidden taxes because of this governments complete mishandling of the energy file

When you see these numbers, it really is no wonder why our hydro bills are at record highs.

This report validates what I have been hearing from my constituents for several years. The tragic part of this whole fiasco is the devastating human cost attached to this government's mismanagement. Spiralling hydro bills are forcing some families to choose between keeping the lights on and putting food on the table. This problem becomes even more severe during the cold months of winter.

All of this could be redirected to schools, to hospitals, to those with disabilities, to paying down our debt, but instead, all that money goes to pay for this government's mismanagement and scandals.

Premier Wynne claims to welcome accountability – well it is time she finally start showing some respect to Ontario taxpayers. I continue to urge constituents to contact my office with any Hydro One billing issues they may have.

MPP Laurie Scott

Kids learn cooking, life skills

To the Editor.

The John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton has been running the Towards a Healthy Future: Cooking and Life Skills program and we have been welcomed at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School for the last six weeks. This program is geared for children ages eight to 12. We have taught the children basic cooking skills, kitchen safety and basic life skills. We would like to thank J.D. Hodgson Ele-

mentary school for allowing us to run our program in their school. We also would like to extend our thanks to all of our sponsors including Todd's Independent Grocer, Haliburton Foodland, 4Cs Food Bank and Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

Jessica Noble Program Facilitator

College making progress

To the Editor,

It's important to correct the multiple inaccuracies in regard to the Ontario College of Trades (the College) that appeared in Shane Sisson's Dec. 16 letter to the editor.

In just over a year, the Ontario College of Trades (the College) has made significant progress as a new self-regulatory body mandated to oversee and modernize skilled trades in Ontario and protect the public interest.

For the first time in Ontario, there are enforcement officers checking to ensure that the person who fixes your brakes or wires your home is actually qualified to do the job.

The College has already made great progress in updating training standards for trades to ensure that our apprentices have the best training possible. A new website www.earnwhileyoulearn.ca has been developed to encourage youth to explore the skilled trades a first-choice career option.

The College has also been working tirelessly to build relationships with industry, local Chambers of Commerce, businesses and skilled trades professionals across the province.

Also, during our first year, the College facilitated the first independent, open and transparent review of all 33 journeyperson to apprentice ratios. As a result of this open process that included industry involvement, 14 ratios were reduced, and now all but one ratio begins at 1:1.

Finally, our membership fees were set following a comprehensive consultation with industry and are the lowest yearly membership fee of any of the professional regulatory bodies in Ontario.

In order to ensure that the College is able to fulfill its mandate to protect the public interest, it is important that facts be communicated clearly and accurately to the public.

David Tsubouchi CEO and Registrar, Ontario College of Trades

A senior's Christmas

Gerald Irish

A Senior's Moment

Before I forget, my wife and I would like to wish all of you and yours, all the best of the holiday season - a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

It seems odd now that I am a senior that these holidays have taken on a whole new significance. I think that this has happened to me as I have grown unfortunately in size but also in emotional maturity. I have learned to share,

to be a bit more patient, and I have allowed love to move into and swell my heart.

Most of the thanks for these changes must go to my wife, who came into my life and brought her family along with her. Acceptance, love, sharing and caring proved to be a two-way street. When I learned this, the rest came more easily.

So, once again: merry Christmas and happy holidays.

I enjoy writing for you and hope you enjoy reading my offerings.





JDHES presents the Grinch

Above, the J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School band performs at the annual Holiday Concert. It included a How the Grinch Stole Christmas performance with costumes and a instrumental performance by PALS students. There were hundreds in attendance for the event in the school's

Left, A J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School student does his best portray of the dog Max from the How the Grinch Stole Christmas story at the annual Holiday Concert. It included instrumental performances by the band and PALS students. There were hundreds in attendence for the event in the school's gymnasium.

Photos by Darren Lum

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WES students get creative

Students from the Grade 7/8 class at Wilberforce Elementary School perform Santa's Court, a play they conceived themselves, from script to props, costumes and the set on Dec. 16 at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre. Santa's Court included bad characters, such as the Grinch, who were trying to get back on Santa's nice list. The play was part of the school's annual Christmas concert, which included traditional songs such as Silent Night and Jingle Bells.



Grade 4/5 students from Wilberforce Elementary School perform holiday tunes on their recorders on Dec. 16 at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre. Songs included *Ode to Joy, Wilberforce Rocks*, which included props seen in front, and *Rockin Around the Christmas Tree*.

/Angelica Blenich Staff



SBES Christmas concert

The Stuart Baker Elementary School Grade 1 classes perform at the annual Christmas Concert on Friday, Dec. 12 at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School in Haliburton. Hundreds of parents, guardians, grandparents and family filled the gym stands to watch the performers from kindergarten to Grade 3. The event included French songs, as the school offers French immersion.

Photos by Darren Lum



Believe in the Magic of Giving!

As of December 17th, The Believe In the Magic of Giving campaign

has raised **\$47,425** for the Haliburton Highlands Palliative Centre.

Thank you to the following generous businesses, groups and individuals:

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Haliburton School of the Arts student Kelsey Redman, left, exhibits pieces of art she created. A graduate of the school's VCAD program, Redman has also taken courses in blacksmithing, fibre arts, ceramics, glassblowing and sculpture. The show is held annually at the end of the school year and gives students a chance to exhibit and sell their work to the public.



The Wrap it Up event at Fleming College on Dec. 13 included gifts for all price ranges, such as Christmas ornaments created by students from the Haliburton School of the Arts.



B.C. resident Katie-May Arndt knits pieces of art during Wrap it Up at the Haliburton School of the Arts event on Dec. 13. A graduate of he fibre arts program, Arndt was showcasing her pieces, including the scarves and quilt in behind, to guests at the exhibit.







Making Moments Matter Campaign

Goal—\$900,000 Raised to date—\$661,528

Thank You!



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Curry Motors in the rear-view mirror

Former owner and general manager of Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC, Don Popple smiles at the thought of retirement during his last week of work on Dec. 18. Born and raised in Penetanguishene, Popple, 71, moved to the Highlands 40 years ago when he began working at the dealership, which has been in his wife's family for many generations. A father and grandfather, Popple is looking forward to spending time with his wife Sheila, whom he has been married to for close to 50 years. An active volunteer in the community, Popple is a retired Rotarian and involved with the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, currently working on the palliative care campaign. His official last day of work is Jan. 2, 2015. Popple sold the dealership to Bill Campbell in May of 2013. **Angelica Blenich Staff**





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Extendicare gets Christmas-y

Christmas sweaters filled Extendicare earlier this month as people prepared for the holiday season with flare and fun. Front from left, Emmy Lester, Shauna Morrison, Tammy Hurley, Marg Hutchinson, Christina Black. Back from left, Krysta Sharp, Jessie Dovell, Sharon Sachs, Linda Kay, Lorraine Manary, Kathy DeCarlo, Sue Swinson, Tanya McKnight, Jane Rosenberg.







We'd like to deliver sincere best wishes to your door this holiday season. May the season bring much happiness, peace and health to you and your family.



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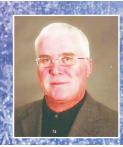
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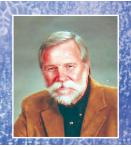
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All of the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School bands finished the HHSS Holiday Concert with We Wish You A Merry Christmas at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton.



The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) vocal ensemble sings Where Are You Christmas.

Wishing a merry Christmas
The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School
(HHSS) bands (Grade 9 to 12) perform We Wish You A Merry Christmas at the end of the HHSS Holiday Concert at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. The annual event before the holidays featured a vocal ensemble, the jazz ensemble, the Grade 9 band and a band of Grade 10s, 11s and 12s. It ended with everyone performing We Wish You A Merry Christmas.

Photos by Darren Lum



A member from the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) Grade 10, 11, and 12 band plays his stand-up bass and performs Winter Wonderland at the HHSS Holiday Concert at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton.





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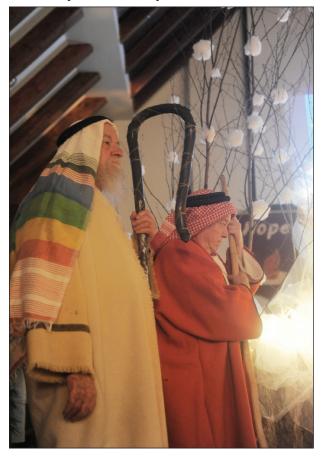


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Shepherds came from afar to see the baby Jesus, who was born in a stable.





The Christmas story

Mary and Joseph, played by Stephen Theyar and Hannah Klose, marvel in the beauty of the baby Jesus at St. George's Anglican Church during *Calling All Angels*, a nativity pageant put on by the Haliburton Anglican Church and St. Paul's Anglican Church on Dec. 12. The pageant, which was performed in Minden on Dec. 6, included singers and actors from both congregations. Angelica Blenich Staff

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Winter's heart

Poem by Sylvie Kalenda

I walk beneath stone-coloured sky, Sun masquerading as Moon,

Pelting me with pebbles of silver light, spilling onto skin of snow.

I salute the birches and pine trees that flank the road, as I pass, grateful for their camaraderie this morning.

The birches' branches trembling like frayed nerves, the pines drooping beneath boulders of

Makes it easier, somehow, for me to carry my own quiet burdens.

Silence so loud I hear clouds of my Breath emerging with Air, as I cradle the Christmas wreath in my arms, apologizing beneath my Breath to the trees whose branches and pinecones I stole, to weave a wreath that I carry to the cemetery each year.

Cold throbbing in my ears, wind stinging my cheeks, as my feet slip on a patch of ice and I tumble backwards on the road, clutching the wreath to my chest, where my Heart thrashes

like a bird in a cage, craving the comfort of Christmases past when I was small and still believed.

I brush the snow off my coat and knees and rise, fingering the wreath that survived the fall. I march through the snow to the rhythm of my Breath, following my footsteps that lead me there, where I see candles flickering like quiet prayers in the milky light, wreaths adorning the headstones. I walk to the place where they sleep deep beneath the snow, memories seeping into my Heart, as I light the candle, then finger the letters that spell their names.

I glance up at the dome of sky, the sun glis-

tening like a fish eye, surrounded by minnow clouds that drift by. I blink my eyes at the snowflakes swirling down from Above, the bud of a blue flame flickering deep within as I turn and begin to walk back towards Home, wind lashing my cheeks, the trees saluting me, my boots leaving dents in the snow for a Stranger to follow to lead him Home.



Songs of Christmas

Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers sang Christmas carols along with their adult accompaniment at Highland Wood long-term care home on Wednesday, Dec. 17 in Haliburton. After entertaining, they handed out handmade gifts to all the audience members. Jenn Watt Staff

sports







Photos by Darren Lum

Swinging good timesClockwise from far left, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's Jason Wood takes a swing; Hayden Black shows effort; and Ryan Draper participates in the Red Hawks second annual Practical Academics and Life Skills (PALS) program Badminton Tournament and Dance on Wednesday, Dec. 10 in Haliburton. The event drew 65 athletes from five area schools that included Haliburton's J.Douglas Hodgson Elementary School.

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Girls' Hawks team dominant in New York

from page 1

The numbers don't lie. Contrary to whether Santa granted the coach's wishes, the Hawks just flat out-played everyone else.

The Hawks finished undefeated through four roundrobin games, scoring 16 goals and not allowing one goal. By the end of the tournament every player scored at least one

The team started with a solid effort against the Nottawasaga Pines out on the Olympic sized rink and easily outplayed and out-skated their opponents, winning 6-0.

Marsden said the team used the first game to work on executing different things such as moving the puck around

"Between the first and second period, I said, 'Girls, let's get in the Christmas spirit and this is about sharing the puck. Let's start moving it around.' We started to move it and things started to happen and that built confidence. Our girls, when they play with confidence, they play a lot better."

They followed this game with a 2-0 shutout of Lakefield College and then easily handled the KV Lady Crusaders 6-0. They squared off against St. Theresa Thunder for their last round-robin game and won 2-0.

The next day the Thunder squared off against the Hawks for the gold medal game at the 1980 Herb Brooks Arena where it was a closer game.

Hawks defenceman Sydney Cameron scored the goahead goal, but the Thunder scored the equalizer leaving the teams tied 1-1, sending the game to overtime.

With three shooters each, the Hawks were sent home happy, as forward Alicia McLean scored the shootout winner when she scored for the 2-1 win.

Throughout the tournament, the Red Hawks defence was solid from front to back, particularly with goalie Connor Marsden, who had 162 minutes before surrendering her first goal in the gold medal 2-1 winning game. Marsden also stopped all three shooters during the championship shootout she faced to ensure the victory.

On Friday night in Lake Placid, the Hawks head coach Marsden had the players watch an excerpt from the movie, Miracle - a true story about U.S. hockey coach Herb Brooks, who led the men's American hockey team to beat the heavily favoured Soviet Union hockey team for gold at the 1980 Olympics.

The movie scene he wanted them to see was of Brooks giving the speech to the American hockey players about the importance of the team, moving the puck, creativity and focus, which are things he and the coaching staff have been trying to convey to the team for the entire season. The team watched the rest of the movie on the eight-hour drive



The Red Hawks girls' hockey team went undefeated to win the American Cup Tournament in Lake Placid, New York from Dec. 12 to 14.

back to Haliburton after the championship game.

This is the best finish for the Red Hawks since they won a bronze medal in the 2010-2011 season.

Marsden said winning this tournament in what could be the last one for this school team is exciting and something his players will never forget.

"We call it our own miracle on ice," he said.



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Hawks volleyball team split pair

Darren Lum Staff reporter

Finding success this season is going to depend on the Red Hawks' ability to focus following the team's first three league games and home tournament, said its coach Michelle Backus.

The seniors hosted nearby Fenelon Falls Secondary School Falcons, Lindsay's I.E. Weldon Secondary School Wildcats and Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute Spartans, Cannington's Brock High School Bulldogs and Peterborough's St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Titans on Monday, Dec. 15 in Haliburton at the

They displayed strong play at the net and showed impressive serving (when it didn't hit the back of the wall or the net). However, the team had lapses in their focus and from the amount of aces against it was hard not to see most games could have been closer than what the scores indicated.

The team's coach Backus said momen-

tum and confidence factored in the losses, pointing to how a few games just got away after solid starts.

'They need to maintain their confidence and momentum and not just give it up in the end. They get a little bit too anxious," she said. "We had a lot of unforced errors. Our missed serves we need to focus on because we sent at least five or six each game out the back court or into the net."

The games against the Falcons, Wildcats and Titans counted towards Kawartha League standings while the last two games against the Spartans and Bulldogs were

Although the Hawks didn't win any of the matches outright (2-0), there is reason for optimism because of the two splits against the Titans (25-11, 23-25) and the Spartans (25-19, 21-25).

Backus said the splits are proof the team has the skill to compete, particularly regarding the LCVI game.

We've got the skills. We keep giving it up towards the end. We get to the magic number of 23 [with 25 being the winning point total] and then let them get ahead of us," she said.

The team's last 0-2 (10-25, 11-25) loss to Brock was a little misleading, as the team was fatigued from the tournament, Backus

"It's a long day from 1 p.m. until almost 4:30. No break," she said.

New player and rookie to the team and volleyball, Callie Dick played well, even outplaying some starters in the LCVI game,

Hawks power Shae MacNaull garnered a team highlight when she strung together 12 straight serves against the Titans in the first game that the team won.

Throughout the tournament the Hawks received strong play from power players Rebecca Anderson and Cierra Hurley, who were active blocking and spiking, while setter Maggie Scheffee had a solid game at the net and behind the service line.

The Red Hawks have room to improve.

Playing at home in front of family and friends factored in the team's slow start against the Falcons when they were down by as many as nine points in both games, eventually losing 0-2 (18-25, 21-25).

The nerves from people they know watching. That doesn't ĥelp, but once they got going they were good and need to remember to maintain the momentum and really work on their defence," she said, referring to how a lot of serves and passes fell to the floor without anyone calling to

Hawks players Nicole Black and Emily Edwards were both absent, but are expected back in the New Year.

IEW 15-25, 13-25



Darren Lum Staff

The Red Hawks power Cierra Hurley reaches up for a spike during a tournament on Monday, Dec. 15 in Haliburton. The Hawks managed to split two matches at the fivematch tournament.







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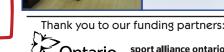


































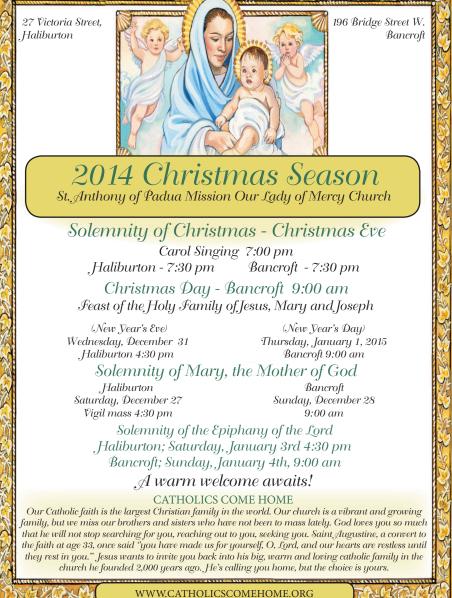












Darren Lum Staff

The Red Hawks player Cassidy Garbutt came through with the team's first goal in the second period, helping with the eventual 2-2 tie against the St. Mary's Thunder on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at the A.J. LaRue Community Centre arena in Haliburton. The Hawks battled back from a one goal deficit in the second and in the third before drawing even with league leading and the undefeated Thunder.



Team effort in Thunder draw

Darren Lum Staff reporter

Taking a 2-2 tie into the holidays is as rewarding as a win when it happens against the best team in the Kawartha High School Girls' Hockey League, Red Hawks coach Dan Marsden said.

The Red Hawks girls' hockey team not only played well enough for a draw against the undefeated St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Thunder, but also displayed the championship form on Tuesday, Dec. 16 that earned them a gold at the Canadian Hockey Enterprises American Cup Tournament from Dec. 12 to 14 in Lake Placid, New

Marsden said the key to this welldeserved tie at the A.J. LaRue Community Centre arena in Haliburton was because of Lake Placid.

"We started gelling as a team and understanding that it's a team effort, share the puck, move the feet," he said. "I told the girls you've got to move your feet against this club. They have some good players and are a perennial powerhouse that always goes to [the all-provincials] so we've got to be sure we're ready to take them on."

He loved his team's resiliency in being able to battle back from two one-goal deficits.

This was a tight checking game and despite the Thunder's edge in skill the Red Hawks were never out of this

Tied at 0-0 and close to midway through the second period, the Thunder's Olivia DiVona took a slapshot past Hawks' goalie Connor Marsden.

The Hawks' player Cassidy Garbutt, who finished with two points (one

goal and one assist), responded with a goal scored in tight 1-1. Seconds after, the momentum clearly with the home team, Hawks' defenceman Sydney Cameron, who assisted on Garbutt's goal, blasted a bullet that rung off the cross bar.

At the 9:28 mark of the third, Hawks goalie Marsden kept the game tied when she made a pad save on a low shot taken on a clean breakaway.

A little more than a minute later, the Thunder's Danielle Sawyer scored to give the visitors a lead 2-1.

Undeterred, the Hawks kept pressing, skating hard to the net every chance they had.

With under three minutes, the Hawks defenceman Cameron came into the Thunder zone with speed, stick-handling into the slot and then drawing three defenders to her in the corner where she completed a backhand pass through the legs of a defender to a wide-open Alicia McLean, who was at edge of the crease. McLean got off a shot, but couldn't beat Thunder goalie Mollie Brown. McLean had several scoring chances from her innate ability to find open ice, strong skating and deft stickhandling abilities and finished with an

With just 2:20 left, Hawks winger Kenndal Marsden, who finished with two points (one goal and one assist), struck for the equalizer with a wristshot that beat Brown on the blocker side.

The Hawks had a strong opportunity with 30 seconds left when they were awarded a powerplay after McLean drew the penalty when she was pulled down while driving to the net. During the one-player advantage, the Hawks'

cross-ice pass along the blue line in the offensive zone was picked off by a Thunder player, but the ensuing breakaway pass was broken up by a back checking Cameron that deflected a pass from the boards towards the front of the net.

Marsden told his team heading into the game that a tie was the goal and a win a bonus.

"I told them at the start of the game ... we tie this club we beat this club," he

For background the Thunder dominated the Fenelon Falls Secondary School Falcons 11-0.

Although there are a few Red Hawks players worthy of accolades, the coach continued to stress how the entire team came through when it needed to.

"On the whole it's the five players on the ice that makes things happen," he

He cannot stress the team concept enough, believing in making the extra pass and getting teammates involved.

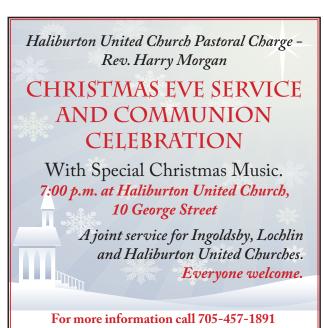
"I find a wicked assist much better than a pretty goal," he said.

He acknowledges his team may not be most skilled or the best, particularly against AA teams like the Thunder and AAA schools, but he believes his team can outwork anyone.

'We've got a team of grinders, I call them, that work hard," he said. "We'll just work every shift and get some bounces or breaks to keep us in it."

The team will continue to improve and will be hosting Lindsay's Wildcats of I.E. Weldon Secondary School on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at the A.J. LaRue Community Centre arena in Halibur-







3-0 win for Storm's midget B girls

The Minden Car Quest Auto midget B girls maintained first place in their loop with a 3-0 road win over the Ennismore Eagles Wednesday night in Lakefield.

The Storm came out a little sluggish after a weekend without hockey but found a way to win, capitalizing on a few opportunities to secure two points in the win column, keeping them ahead of the Peterborough Ice Kats.

Kenndal Marsden opened the scoring late in the first period with a wrister from the point that eluded the Eagles' tender. Kelsey Maracle added to the lead with a quick snapshot off a power play face-off

in the Ennismore end in the dying seconds of the second period. Kenndal Marsden scored her second goal of the game early in the third finishing off a rush with another shot that fooled the Eagles' netminder. Connor Marsden maintained her focus and stopped all Ennismore shooters

in the shutout win - her sixth this season. The Storm's next game is on the road in Peterborough on Jan. 3 where they will take on the Ice Kats in a battle for first place. The following weekend, Jan. 10 and 11, the Storm will play in the Orillia Hawks Tournament.

Submitted by Dan Marsden



Gillam pins down gold

Paul Klose

Special to the Echo

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School wrestling team wrapped up the first portion of their season at the annual Port Hope Wrestling Tourna-

Twenty Red Hawks wrestlers left Haliburton to compete at the event, which hosted more than 175 competitors. Haliburton wrestlers continue to improve as they build on technique and match strategy.

At the end of the day, HHSS wrestlers finished with a winning match percentage. Twelve of the 19 athletes who attended ranked in the top three of their respective weight divisions.

Results

Gold Medalist: AJ Gillam

Silver Medalists: Keagan Gillam, Nikki Kelly, Matt Pheaton,

Bronze Medalists: Matt Manning, Lucas Bortolussi, Dylan Freake, Justin Irvine, Emily Klose, Rebecca Hamilton, Sonya Flatman

Zanna Zondervan Special to the Echo

The Red Hawks wrestler Dylan Freake, who went on to win a bronze medal, controls his opponent with solid ground work at the annual Port Hope Wrestling Tournament on Dec. 16. The Hawks sent 19 competitors to the event where 12 earned a spot on the podium. Hawks wrestler A.J. Gillam led the way with a gold.

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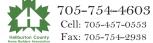
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Men's hockey completes comeback

The following is a HHSS sports brief for the week ending Dec. 19.

The men's Red Hawks hockey team goes into the break with four wins and one loss after defeating the Crestwood Secondary School Mustangs by a score of 6-1 early last

The team was down 1-0 going into the third period, but reeled off six unanswered goals to turn the game in favour of the Red Hawks.

Submitted by Judi Paul

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Wilberforce filled with Christmas spirit

Wilberforce

Hilda Clark

448-2018

A free Christmas dinner will be held again on Christmas Day at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre. Along with entertainment and a kids' corner, it will be on from 2 to 6 p.m.

This generous offering was welcomed on Christmas Day last year. A number of people greatly enjoyed having a hearty meal and spending time with other folks on this special day. And now it is being held again. The Heavens' Saints Motorcycle Ministries, their family and friends are organizing this event and welcome everyone to celebrate the day together. You may bring a donation for the food bank if you can.

For more information call Lynn Binskin at 705-448-9893 or Hazel and Digger Lanois at 705-448-9692 or Tamara Mothersill at 705-448-1118. How good of these volunteers to offer this gift of food and fellowship.

The carol service at the historic Essonville Church brought people together again on Sunday, Dec. 21 for an evening of song "celebrating the reason for the season". One after another the familiar songs told the story of the birth of Jesus and the special visits concerning the shepherds and the Magi.

The Christmas concert presented by the students and staff of the Wilberforce Public School was an excellent one this year On Tuesday, Dec. 16 as the rain fell outdoors the students presented a program with many vocal and instrumental musical numbers some which brought more wintry images. On the Lloyd Watson Centre stage the young people provided warm well prepared entertaining performances.

The Grade 4/5 class played *Ode To Joy* on recorders followed by Wilberforce Rocks. This was a medley of rockin' songs in keeping with their interest and excitement in a study of rocks. They did Jingle Bell Rock and Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree. They concluded their part with "With My Own Hands"

The Grade 5/6 class obviously had practised well on their recorders and drums. Their part of the program included a whole class rendition of *Jolly Old Saint Nicholas* on recorders. Then two different groups of six, four on recorders and two on percussion (drums) played Frosty and Jingle Bells. Christmas March was played by a trio and Silent Night by five other players. They also sang about Frosty. Wow!

The Grade 7/8 class presented Santa's Court a play for which the class had helped create the script about various actions on which Santa and the Jury had to rule whether or not the offender was guilty of being naughty or nice. It was humorous and well played. This group also sang two well learned well presented numbers. Santa Claus is Coming to Town was good but they really put their hearts and bodies into I'm Getting Nuttin' For Christmas. Best concert in quite a while! Nice to have principal Mrs. Elaine Fournier welcoming everyone and VP Mr. Peter Ferri being a warm friendly master of ceremonies. Best wishes to staff and students for a safe happy vacation.

And while on the entertainment circuit may we report an absolutely exciting concert by the Highlands Male Chorus and the Highlands Concert Band on Wednesday, Dec. 17. This fundraiser for Haliburton County Food Banks was held at St.

George's Anglican Church. The band led by Glen Carter and chorus had Melissa Stephens conducting and playing each did two sets. The audience also was in good form singing four carols along with band and chorus.

The band playing a variety of instruments presented selections that ranged from the seasonal favourite Sleigh Ride and Christmas Crystals to two delightful medleys of pieces such as Go Tell It On The Mountain. It's finale Felice Navidad brought in a colourful Mexican Santa for a lighter moment. Good sounds from a band that has grown from 5 members in 2001 to about thirty players.

What can one say about the talent in the male chorus of at least 18 singers of which several are also in the band. From an ancient Good Morning Master to I Dream they were right on. Jamaica Nowell was charming with solo parts by Glen Loney, Mark Bramham, David Mills and Chris Chumbley. Their O *Holy Night* featured Dave Hawley in the solo parts and the chorus doing the always challenging humming during "a thrill of hope". And I'll be Home For Christmas was a touching conclusion to the program.

Interesting that both band and chorus included a selection with Pachelbel Canon music overlaying with other pieces. In the band's number one heard Jingle Bells and Jolly Old Saint Nicholas. With the male chorus the First Noell was heard. How

A well planned evening for an important cause. Thanks for one of the best concerts of the season. Merry Christmas and best wishes for the new year 2015 to all who check out my column.

Christmas blessings **West Guilford**

Eleanor Cooper

754-2278

Greetings of the blessed Christmas season to all you faithful readers of the Guilford news. May hearts and homes be blessed with the sense of God's presence throughout this busy and happy time. One of the blessings is the meeting of new neighbours which happened at the Maple Lake United Church when I was introduced to Brian Pfrimmer who attended that excellent turkey dinner with his son Nathan and his wife. Brian and Pat have become residents on the Green Lake Road and this is their official welcome to the community. Other relative newcomers please give me a call and become acquainted with your perspective neighbours. Be it at Euchre on Tues. nights or church on Sunday a welcome awaits you.

Thanks to all who go to the trouble of coloured lights to add to the beauty of the Christmas season.

By this time cards will have been mailed, parcels wrapped, shopping shopped, presents bought, or not. The day happens and brings its joy, or poignant memories depending on the circumstances.

In the past weeks we have been entertained at St. George's Church by a beautiful pageant created by Ron (Sinclair) Russell of Carnarvon. Singing, costumes, readings combined to tell us again the wonder and joy of the story. David and Shirley Barker and Wayne Cooper participated in this production, and the Highlands Male Chorus later Wayne also participated along with Norris Turner and Paul Irwin.

In our Highlands Concert Band social others from our area also played, Beth Johns, Bar Bouthorn, J. Glen Carter our conductor paid tribute to Keith Burns who's idea it was to begin this band in 2001.

Since then we have grown from six members to 27 and still enjoy the Friday rehearsals immensely.

Euchre, Dec. 16

High scores: Dianne Madonick and Ray Campbell Low - Leslie Thatcher and Riley Sisson

Most Lone Hands - Kay Morrison and Ron Bain

All welcome to a dinner on Dec. 30 at St. George's Church from 1-3 p.m. Come to this free hot meal. Not mandatory but you may call 457-2074.



Winner named in downtown shopping contest

Moose FM radio host Rick Lowes, left, and BIA executive member Renzo Rosati announce Trish Fortier as the winner of the third annual Buy in and Win contest on Dec. 19 live on air on Moose FM. An initiative of the **Haliburton Business Improvement** Area, the contest rewards those who shop locally by offering customers a ballot when they make a purchase at a BIA store for a chance to win \$1,000 cash or an all-inclusive trip for two to Cuba. Fortier filled out her ballot at Shoppers Drug Mart.

Angelica Blenich Staff



Wednesday December 24th 6:30pm - 7:30pm

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Everyone Welcome!



I wish to sincerely thank the voters in Ward 1, who supported me in the recent Municipal Election.

All those who had signs in their yards, those who completed questionnaire's and those who took the time to answer their door and chat with me. Ward 1, I believe, had the highest *voter response in the municipality!*

It will be a difficult task in this next four years, with decreased funding and increased expenses for the municipality. I look forward to this challenge, working in a cohesive environment with the rest of Council, and the residents of the Municipality Dysart Et Al.

My municipal email is on the Dysart website, my phone number in the book, and the mailbox will remain at the end of my driveway for any type of communication!

Again, thank you to the voters! I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas, Nancy Wood-Roberts and Happy New Year!





NOTICE

Notice is hereby provided that the Township Office located at 1123 North Shore Road will be closed from Wednesday, December 24, 2014 at 12:00 noon to Friday, January 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

The Township Office located at 1051 Main Street in Dorset will be closed from Monday, December 22, 2014 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

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Mathews, Benjamin Daniel Jan. 25, 1962 - Dec. 6, 1979 Beloved Son

"It's not the tears that we shed at the time

That tell our hearts are broken, It's the silent tears in the after years, When your precious name is spoken. Time cannot stop the heartache, Or even stop the tears, Or take away the memories, For someone we loved so dear. Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear. If all the world were ours to give, We'd give it all and more, To see your loving face again, Walking through our door."

640 IN MEMORIAM



In loving memory of a dear husband Merle Clarke who passed away May 27th, 2011.

"A million times I've needed you, A million times I've cried. If love could have saved you dear, You never would have died. Things we feel most deeply, Are the hardest things to say, My dearest...I loved you, In a very special way.

If I could have one lifetime wish, One dream that could come true, I'd pray to God with all my heart, For yesterday and you." Lovingly remembered and sadly missed.

Your loving wife, Nina

Dad and Mom

OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES



Community FUNERAL HOME

Shirley Howse (nee Bishop) R.N.

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Monday morning, December 15, 2014 on her 78th birthday. Beloved wife of Chester. Loving mother of Heather Louise and her husband William Sferrino. Cherished grandmother to Adam Robert. Dear identical twin sister of Olive Arnold of Newfoundland. Shirley was an avid curler and golfer. She was highly involved in the community through both the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #129 Ladies Auxiliary.

Visitation, Memorial Service & Reception

Friends were invited to call at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Thursday evening December 18, 2014 from 7 - 9 PM and Friday afternoon, December 19, 2014 from 12 (Noon) until time of Memorial Service in the Chapel at 1 o'clock. Reception to followed at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #129, Haliburton. As expressions of sympathy donations to the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary would be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com

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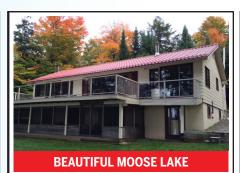


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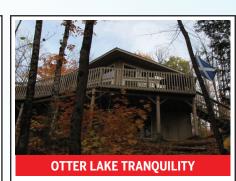
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4 Season Royal Home/Cottage, 8.84 acres, 379 Ft. FRTG on a no motor lake. 3+2 BR. Open Concept, Fireplace, Large Windows, Spacious Deck. \$439,900



Large home/cottage on 9 + ac. Sunny private lot. 3+2 Br. Spacious. Full Basement. Many Features. \$270,000



Sprawling 3BR ranch bungalow. Private landscaped lot. Att garage, 1BR apt, Excellent value for 2600sf. \$269,900



Walk to town. Treed private lot. Open concept, vaulted ceilings. Large wraparound deck. Huge recroom, Insul det garage. Nice design. Fresh Paint & Shingles! \$265,000



Custom home on 8.36 Ac. Private pretty setting, 15 min to town. 3BR, 2pc, 4pc. Att dbl & det single garage w/ carport & workshop. \$239,900



frtg. Att garage. Green Lake across road. \$235,000



Private, close to Haliburton, 3BR Royal Home. Spacious. Ensuite to Master, Recroom. Acreage for privacy \$217,000



15 minutes east of Haliburton, 3BR home on sunny level 1.3 ac lot. Many upgrades done in the past 2 years! \$145,000



3BR with historic character. Wraparound porch. Walk to village. 30x20 barn in Great condition.

\$139,900

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22 Ac south of Minden \$55,900

Wishing Our Clients, Family & Friends All The Best Of The Holiday Season!



Linda, Troy & Nicole



